

§ 4b.6

15 CFR Subtitle A (1-1-01 Edition)

(A) If the individual contests the application of the exemption to the records, review procedures in § 4b.5(g)(3)(ii) shall apply; or,

(B) If the individual challenges the exemption itself, the procedure is a petition for the issuance, amendment, or repeal of a rule under 5 U.S.C. 553(e). If the exemption was determined by the Department, such petition shall be filed with the Assistant Secretary for Administration. If the exemption was determined by another agency, referred to in § 4b.3(h), the Department will provide the individual with the name and address of the other agency and any relief sought by the individual shall be that provided by the regulations of the other agency. Within the Department, no such denial is administratively final until such a petition has been filed by the individual and disposed of on the merits by the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

(ii) As to denial under paragraphs (g)(1)(ii), (g)(1)(iv) of this section or (to the limited extent provided in paragraph (g)(3)(i)(A) of this section) paragraph (g)(1)(i), the individual may file for review with the General Counsel, as indicated in the Privacy Officer's initial denial notification. The procedures appearing in § 4b.8 shall be followed by both the individual and the Department to the maximum extent practicable.

(iii) As to denial under paragraph (g)(1)(iii) of this section, no further administrative consideration within the Department is available because the denial is not administratively final until expiration of the time period indicated in § 4b.6(a).

(h) If a request is partially granted and partially denied, the Privacy Officer shall follow the appropriate procedures of this section as to the records within the grant and the records within the denial.

[40 FR 45621, Oct. 2, 1975; 40 FR 50662, Oct. 30, 1975; 40 FR 51168, Nov. 3, 1975, as amended at 53 FR 26236, July 12, 1988]

§ 4b.6 Special procedures: Medical records.

(a) No response to any request for access to medical records by an individual will be issued by the Privacy Officer for a period of seven days (exclud-

ing Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) from the date of receipt.

(b) The Department has published as a routine use, for all systems of records containing medical records, consultations with an individual's physician or psychologist if, in the sole judgment of the Department, disclosure could have an adverse effect upon the individual. The mandatory waiting period set forth in paragraph (a) of this section will permit exercise of this routine use in appropriate cases. The Department will pay no cost of any such consultation.

(c) In every case of a request by an individual for access to medical records, the Privacy Officer shall:

(1) Inform the individual of the waiting period prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section;

(2) Obtain the name and address of the individual's physician and/or psychologist, if the individual consents to give them;

(3) Obtain specific, written consent for the Department to consult the individual's physician and/or psychologist in the event that the Department believes such consultation is advisable, if the individual consents to give such authorization;

(4) Obtain specific, written consent for the Department to provide the medical records to the individual's physician or psychologist in the event that the Department believes access to the record by the individual is best effected under the guidance of the individual's physician or psychologist, if the individual consents to give such authorization; and,

(5) Forward the individual's medical record to the Department's medical officer for review and a determination on whether consultation with or transmittal of the medical records to the individual's physician or psychologist is warranted. If the consultation with or transmittal of such records to the individual's physician or psychologist is determined to be warranted, the Department's medical officer shall so consult or transmit. Whether or not such a consultation or transmittal occurs, the Department's medical officer shall provide instruction to the Privacy Officer regarding the conditions of access by

Office of the Secretary, Commerce

§4b.8

the individual to his or her medical records.

(d) If an individual refuses in writing to give the names and consents set forth in paragraphs (c)(2) through (4) of this section and the Department has determined that disclosure could have an adverse effect upon the individual, the Department shall give the individual access to said records by means of a copy, provided without cost to the requester, sent registered mail return receipt requested.

§4b.7 Request for correction or amendment to record.

(a) Any individual, regardless of age, who is a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence into the United States may submit a request for correction or amendment to the Department. The request should be made either in person or by mail addressed to the Privacy Officer who processed the individual's request for access to the record, and to whom is delegated authority to make initial determinations on requests for correction or amendment. The offices of Privacy Officers are open to the public between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

(b) The processing of requests submitted by mail will be facilitated if the words "PRIVACY ACT REQUEST" appear in capital letters on the face of the envelope. If, for some reason, the individual is unable to use the Department's official form, the letter should bear the words "PRIVACY ACT REQUEST" in capital letters at the top.

(c) Any request which is not addressed as specified in paragraph (a) of this section or which is not marked as specified in paragraph (b) of this section will be so addressed and marked by Department personnel and forwarded immediately to the responsible Privacy Officer. A request which is not properly addressed by the individual will not be deemed to have been "received" for purposes of measuring time periods for response until actual receipt by the Privacy Officer. In each instance when a request so forwarded is received, the Privacy Officer shall notify the individual that his or her request was improperly addressed and

the date when the request was received at the proper address.

(d) Since the request, in all cases, will follow a request for access under §4b.5, the individual's identity will be established by his or her signature on the request and use of the Department control number assigned to the request.

(e) A request for correction or amendment should include the following:

(1) A specific identification of the record sought to be corrected or amended (for example, description, title, date, paragraph, sentence, line and words);

(2) The specific wording to be deleted, if any;

(3) The specific wording to be inserted or added, if any, and the exact place at which to be inserted or added; and,

(4) A statement of the basis for the requested correction or amendment, with all available supporting documents and materials which substantiate the statement. The statement should identify the criterion of the Act being invoked, that is, whether the information in the record is unnecessary, inaccurate, irrelevant, untimely or incomplete.

§4b.8 Agency review of request for correction or amendment of record.

(a)(1)(i) Not later than ten days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) after receipt of a request to correct or amend a record, the Privacy Officer shall send an acknowledgment providing an estimate of time within which action will be taken on the request and asking for such further information as may be necessary to process the request. The estimate of time may take into account unusual circumstances as described in §4b.5(a). No acknowledgment will be sent if the request can be reviewed, processed and the individual notified of the results of review (either compliance or denial) within the ten days. Requests filed in person will be acknowledged in writing at the time submitted.

(ii) If the Privacy Officer fails to send the acknowledgment within the ten days, as provided above, the requester may ask the General Counsel, to take